Contracts for running luxury tourist trains

2587. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways have awarded contracts to private operators for running luxury tourist trains on some identified circuits;

(b) if so, what are the facts and the necessary details in this regard;

(c) what are the details of the ground and other infrastructural facilities proposed to be provided by the Railways to these private operators and on what terms and conditions;

(d) whether contract for palace-on-wheels type train has been awarded to the highest bidder, if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) what are the details of the bidder to whom the said contract has been awarded; and

(f) to what extent Government would gain or lose by not awarding the contract to the highest bidder?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (f) Global bids were invited by the Ministry of Railways in May 1994 for ownership, marketing and management of Palace-on-wheels type Tourist Train Services on popular tourist circuits to provide transport infrastructural support for the National Tourism Synergy Programme of the Department of Tourism to attract five million tourists by 1997-98. On a scrutiny of the 23 bids received, it has been decided to awarded contracts for 5 Tourist Trains on four circuits to the following parties:

Circuit	*Name of the Party*
(1) Delhi-Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi (Khajuraho)-Varanasai-Lucknow-Delhi	(1) M/s. Sterling Holiday Resorts India Pvt. Ltd. Madras.
(2) Bombay-Aurangabad (Ajanta/Ellora)-Nanded-Secunderabad-Hyderabad-Pune-Bombay	(2) M/s. S.S. Patil, Secunderabad.
(3) Goa (Madgaon)-Mangalore-Mysore (Belur/Halebid)-Hospet (Hampi)-Bangalore-Goa (Madgaon)	(3) M/s. East West Travels & Trade Links Ltd. New Delhi.
(4) Bangalore-Mysore-Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanyakumari-Trivandrum-Cochin-Mettupalayam (Ooty)-Bangalore	(4) M/s. Sterling Holiday Resorts India Pvt. Ltd. Madras. and (5) M/s. L.S. Patil, Secunderabad.

Indian Railways will operate and maintain the tourist trains and provide all ground facilities such as track, signalling, station premises, locomotive, communication etc. The tourist train operator will be responsible for catering on board-ground, entertainment on board/ground, sight seeing, etc.

The bids were evaluated in accordance with the criteria prescribed in the Bid Documents *i.e.* financial capability, experience in the fields of hotel industry, travel trade etc. and percentage share of offer subject to a minimum of 15% of the Gross Turnover. Keeping in view the financial interest of the Railways, only those bids were accepted which fulfilled the above criteria.

Review of the privatisation scheme of Railways

2588. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review of the Railways Scheme for